

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177864
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: TRAVEL OF BISHOP CLAVER

REF: MANILA 10922

1. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER,
DATED JULY 21, FROM MONSIGNOR FRANCIS J. LALLY, SECRETARY
OF DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD PEACE,
UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE:

QUOTE DEAR MR. HABIB: RECENTLY THIS CONFERENCE INVITED
BISHOP FRANCISCO CLAVER OF MALYBALAY, PHILIPPINES, TO THE
UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OF THE BISHOPS'
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD PEACE COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS TO
GIVE A SERIES OF LECTURES AT MARYKNOLL SEMINARY IN NEW
YORK.

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PAGE 02 STATE 177864

QUOTE WE HAVE NOW HEARD FROM BISHOP CLAVER THAT AN EXIT
PERMIT TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES WAS DENIED DESPITE
HIS PERSONAL APPEAL TO PRESIDENT MARCOS, A COPY OF WHICH
IS ENCLOSED.

QUOTE IT IS MOST DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS
QUITE LEGITIMATE AND ORDINARY EXPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS

FREEDOM, I.E., THE RIGHT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF A TRANS-NATIONAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, INFORMATION AND PERSPECTIVES ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP OF OUR TWO CHURCHES AND NATIONS, CAN BE ENTIRELY FRUSTRATED WITHOUT SO MUCH AS THE COURTESY OF AN EXPLANATION TO BISHOP CLAVER FROM THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.

QUOTE AS YOU KNOW, OUR TWO EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT ON A RANGE OF COMMON PROBLEMS. THE CLAVER VISIT WAS PERCEIVED BY US TO BE ONE MORE STRAND IN THE FABRIC OF COOPERATION.

QUOTE THE PROHIBITION OF THIS PLANNED CONTACT WITH BISHOP CLAVER IS SUFFICIENTLY GRAVE FOR US THAT I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU CONVEY TO PRESIDENT MARCOS, THROUGH WHATEVER CHANNEL YOU DEEM EFFECTIVE FOR THE PURPOSE, THE CHAGRIN WHICH HIS APPARENTLY ARBITRARY ACTION HAS CAUSED. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS TO BE A MEETING OF RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES, THE SCOPE OF OUR COMMON CONCERNS TOUCH A WIDE RANGE OF MORAL PROBLEMS BEARING UPON HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HENCE, IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE TO US TO REQUEST THE INTERVENTION OF OUR GOVERNMENT IN CONVEYING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES HOW SERIOUSLY WE TAKE THEIR ACTION.

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PAGE 03 STATE 177864

QUOTE I WILL BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO SEE THAT FUTURE CONTACTS OF THIS CHARACTER CAN BE EXECUTED EXPEDITIOUSLY. SINCERELY YOURS, (REV. MSGR.) FRANCIS J. LALLY. END QUOTE.

2. HABIB HAS SENT FOLLOWING REPLY, DATED JULY 27, TO MONSIGNOR LALLY:

QUOTE DEAR MONSIGNOR LALLY: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JULY 21, 1977, CONCERNING THE REFUSAL OF AN EXIT PERMIT BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO BISHOP CLAVER, THUS DENYING HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OF THE BISHOPS' SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD PEACE COMMITTEE AND TO GIVE A SERIES OF LECTURES AT MARYKNOLL SEMINARY IN NEW YORK.

QUOTE WE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY OUR EMBASSY IN MANILA OF BISHOP CLAVER'S INABILITY TO OBTAIN AN EXIT PERMIT AND WE SHARE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO KEEP HIS APPOINTMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY, THE MORE SO IN VIEW OF HIS HAVING BEEN PERMITTED TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES

LAST YEAR.

QUOTE THE DEPARTURE OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENS IS CONTROLLED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS PLACED RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN TYPES OF TRAVEL. UNDER THESE RULES, TRAVEL FOR TOURISM IS THEORETICALLY NOT ALLOWED, BUT EXCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN CERTAIN CASES, INCLUDING BISHOP CLAVER'S TRIP LAST YEAR AND FORMER SENATOR DIOKNO'S TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES EARLIER THIS YEAR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN ADDITION TO BISHOP CLAVER, BISHOPS LAVAYEN AND TUQUIB HAVE ALSO RECENTLY BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL ABROAD BUT THAT PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED TO BISHOP VARELA. IT APPEARS, THEREFORE, THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS HANDLING SUCH REQUESTS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 177864

A CASE BY CASE BASIS. THE GENERAL PATTERN APPEARS TO BE ONE OF DENYING EXIT PERMITS, WITH EXCEPTIONS MADE NOW AND THEN.

QUOTE WE HAD BELIEVED THAT THE PREVIOUS ISSUANCE OF EXIT PERMITS TO BISHOP CLAVER AND OTHERS SIGNALLED A RELAXATION IN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PERMITTING ITS CITIZENS TO TRAVEL ABROAD. WE WILL BE INFORMING OUR EMBASSY IN MANILA OF YOUR CONCERN AND WILL ALSO ASK THE EMBASSY, AFTER CONSULTING WITH BISHOP CLAVER, TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THE ADVERSE REACTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY TO ITS DENIAL OF AN EXIT PERMIT TO BISHOP CLAVER.

QUOTE INCIDENTALLY, THE COPY OF THE BISHOP'S APPEAL TO PRESIDENT MARCOS, WHICH YOU STATED WAS BEING ENCLOSED WITH YOUR LETTER, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INADVERTENTLY OMITTED. IF YOU COULD SEND ME A COPY FOR OUR FILES, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT. SINCERELY, PHILIP C. HABIB END QUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD CONTACT BISHOP CLAVER, TELL HIM OF EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE, AND BE GUIDED BY HIS WISHES WITH REGARD TO ANY COMMUNICATION BY EMBASSY TO GOP CONCERNING HIS EXIT PERMIT. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE CHANCES OF HIS OBTAINING EXIT PERMIT IN FUTURE BY PREMATURE OR INJUDICIOUS INTERVENTION. IF CLAVER APPROVES, EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS OF CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CONCERN AND MAY EXPRESS VIEW THAT WE BELIEVE REFUSAL TO PERMIT CLAVER TO TRAVEL, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PERMISSION GIVEN HIM LAST YEAR, WILL SERIOUSLY DETRACT FROM IMPACT OF POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS STEPS WHICH GOP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 05 STATE 177864

HAS TAKEN IN LAST FEW MONTHS AND WHICH WE HAVE
WELCOMED. REQUEST REPORT OF CLAVER'S REACTION.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Film Number: D770272-0839
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From: STATE
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